

Message Text

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54

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 CU-04 EB-07 /091 W

----- 101447

R 121520Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5389

INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0925

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, SF

SUBJ: UNREST CONTINUES IN CAPE TOWN BLACK TOWNSHIPS, SITUATION
AT "COLORED" UNIVERSITY EASES

REF: A. CAPE TOWN 919; B. CAPE TOWN 913

1. SPORADIC VIOLENCE CONTINUED IN BLACK TOWNSHIPS OUTSIDE CAPE TOWN TODAY (AUGUST 12) BUT ON REDUCED SCALE. EARLIER ESTIMATE OF 33 KILLED (REF A) LATER REVISED TO 23 BY POLICE AND SUBSEQUENTLY SET AT 27. POLICE ISSUED OFFICIAL STATEMENT THAT 74 HAVE BEEN ARRESTED SO FAR. SCATTERED EFFORTS BY STUDENTS TO PREVENT WORKERS FROM GOING TO THEIR JOBS WERE APPARENTLY INEFFECTIVE AS MOST FIRMS REPORTED NORMAL ATTENDANCE BY BLACK WORKERS. LARGE CROWD DEMONSTRATED IN FRONT OF LANGA POLICE STATION BUT WAS DISPERSED BY POLICE FIRING TEAR GAS. THERE WAS SPORADIC STONING AND BURNING OF VEHICLES.

2. BREAD AND MILK DELIVERIES TO THE TOWNSHIPS WERE INTERRUPTED AND BUS SCHEDULES WERE SERIOUSLY DISRUPTED DUE TO POLICE ROADBLOCKS. TRAIN SERVICES APPEARED TO BE OPERATING NORMALLY. IN FACE OF RUMORS THAT WORKERS WOULD FACE REPRISALS ON RETURNING TO TOWNSHIPS, SOME FIRMS ARE ALLOWING BLACK EMPLOYEES

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TO LEAVE EARLY TO AVOID ARRIVING AFTER DARK. SOME SCHOOLS

IN THE TOWNSHIPS DID NOT OPEN AT ALL AND IN THOSE THAT DID,
FEW STUDENTS ATTENDED.

3. AT (COLORED) UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN CAPE, STUDENT LEADER
ANNOUNCED THAT STUDENTS WOULD RETURN TO CLASSES ON MONDAY
AUGUST 16 IF RECTOR REPLIED TO STUDENT DEMANDS PUT FORWARD
EARLIER THIS WEEK. RECTOR, SAYING HE DID NOT WANT TO "STIFLE
DISCUSSION", AND TERMING STUDENTS ANNOUNCEMENT A "CLEAR
DEMONSTRATION OF A DESIRE TO COOPERATE", SAID HE WOULD
DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO LEADER OF STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL
(SRC) TO HOLD STUDENT MEETING ON CAMPUS. SUSPENSION OF SRC
CONSTITUTION, WILL REMAIN IN EFFECT, HE SAID, UNTIL THERE IS
CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT DISRUPTION OF CLASSES HAD CEASED. THUS,
STUDENTS APPEAR TO HAVE PULLED BACK FROM CONFRONTATION
THAT WOULD HAVE FORCED RECTOR TO CALL POLICE ONTO UNIVERSITY
CAMPUS.

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